REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(2)(ii), Applicants state that patent Claims 1-17 and added Claims 18-68 are pending as of the date of this submission. The additional elements recited in some of the added dependent claims are similar to the additional elements recited in the original dependent claims, as illustrated in the following chart:

Added Dependent Claim	Most Closely-Related Original Dependent
	Claim
30	2
39	3
40	13
41	14
42	15
43	16
51	4
52	5
53	6
54	10
55	11
56	12
57	7
58	8
59	9
60	10
61	11
62	12

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(2)(iii), Applicants state that added Claims 18-68 are supported in the disclosure of the patent, *inter alia*, by Figures 1-9 and the corresponding discussion in the detailed description at column 3, line 60 - column 9, line 53. Applicants also note the statement made at column 1, lines 56-59 that "[i]t should be clearly understood, however, that these improvements can be used separately from one another and in various subcombinations in alternative applications."





Applicants have also made amendments to the specification to correct typographical, editorial, and/or clerical errors. Per MPEP 1402, these amendments can be made since a 35 U.S.C. § 251 error is already present.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this preliminary amendment, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

Dated: February 24, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

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